



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

REQUEST FOR REPORTS ON INFLUENZA (LA GRIPPE).

Medical officers, acting assistant surgeons of the Marine-Hospital Service, secretaries of State boards of health, and other sanitarians are requested to report as soon as practicable whether influenza or la grippe is prevailing in their respective localities, giving the type of the disease, number of cases (when possible), mortality, and the treatment, sanitary and medicinal, with as full statistics as possible. The information is desired for publication in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

In addition to present conditions, a statement is also desired as to dates (even though approximate) of the appearance of la grippe and the estimated number of cases to date of report.

ABSTRACT OF REPLIES RECEIVED.

CONNECTICUT—*New Haven*.—La grippe prevails to a considerable extent. It appeared about January 1, 1901. It generally affects the respiratory tract and is of light form, but quite a number of deaths from pneumonia have occurred as secondary to grip. No accurate statement of the number of cases can be made, but it is estimated that about 10 per cent of the population have been affected.

ILLINOIS—*Chicago*.—Influenza or la grippe of a mild type prevailed from about the middle of December, 1900, to the middle of January, 1901. In November, 1900, 7 deaths from the disease were reported to the board of health. Some physicians estimate that there have been from 8,000 to 10,000 cases treated. The mortality has been small among the young, but considerably larger in old people. The treatment generally employed included the administration of sodium salicylate, quinine, pulverized ipecac et opii, and stimulation as required, with systemic nutrition. Preventive measures consisted principally of isolation of the patients indoors as far as practicable; guarding against any source of infection; disinfection of the secretions of nasal and respiratory organs, and advising the maintenance of aseptic conditions.

INDIANA—*Evansville*.—Influenza has been prevailing in this locality for about four and a half weeks. The prevailing type is that of general muscular pains, with respiratory symptoms. There have been cases that

terminated fatally in pneumonia, but the majority of the cases have been mild. No special sanitary measures are known to have been taken.

MAINE—*Rockland*.—No cases of influenza or la grippe.

MARYLAND—*Solomons*.—Five cases of influenza, each of the respiratory type, have presented themselves for treatment, all being in the persons of seamen recently from Baltimore. No cases are known to exist among the villagers or in the adjacent country.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Boston*.—Influenza or la grippe undoubtedly prevails in this locality, but the extent of its prevalence can not be estimated, as physicians are not required to report cases of influenza except in case of death. The type of the disease is mild. The first case reported appeared during the week ended January 12, 1901. The number of cases treated at the Marine-Hospital since the beginning of December, 1900, has been 4. These were all mild and responded promptly to treatment.

During the week ended January 26, 1901, 15 deaths from the disease were reported in Boston. Of these only 3 were uncomplicated.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—*Nashua*.—La grippe in a mild form is prevailing in this city. The number of cases under treatment is 254. The mortality per cent is very small; in uncomplicated cases there have been practically no deaths. The majority of cases have taken the form of a catarrhal bronchitis, and in quite a number of these cases pneumonia has followed in the young and old. The treatment is with quinine and coal-tar products. The number of cases is declining. The first which the writer has been able to discover occurred near the middle of December, 1900.

Portsmouth.—The disease has been sporadic and of mild febrile and neuralgic type. It appeared about December 15, 1900, and continues.

NEW YORK—*Albany*.—Influenza has been very prevalent, having made its appearance with an occasional case during the last of November or the first of December, 1900. The disease did not become epidemic until about the first of January, 1901. The type is more severe than it has been observed to be for a number of years. It is largely of the nervous variety. Pneumonia is the most fatal complication. The number of cases can not be estimated but they are numerous and the disease is generally prevalent. Eight deaths from la grippe are reported. There is nothing material to report in regard to the ages of the persons attacked. The treatment is symptomatic.

Ogdensburg.—La grippe appeared about January 1, 1901. It has been bronchial in type, moderately severe. The estimated number of cases is 3,000; population, 13,000. The complication is pneumonia, especially in the aged and children. Mortality is light. Treatment is quinine, sedatives, and tonics.

Yonkers.—No epidemic of la grippe.

NORTH CAROLINA—*Wilmington*.—Influenza or la grippe not prevalent in this locality at this time.

OHIO—*Massillon*.—There is considerable prevalence of la grippe. It began to be general about the last week in December, 1900, but it has been present probably in every month since 1890. The type is mild though the tendency to pneumonia is certainly greater than in any former epidemic. The mortality is not large. Absolute rest in bed with hot-water bags and hot drinks seems to be the most successful treatment. Without rest of body and mind the disease is prolonged indefinitely, no matter what medication is used.

PENNSYLVANIA—*Butler*.—The number of cases of la grippe is from 800 to 900. The mortality reported is only 7. In about one-half the cases the nervous system is attacked. The first outbreak was about January 1, during a period of wet weather.

Philadelphia.—No approximately accurate estimate can be made of the number of cases of influenza which have occurred since the commencement of the present outbreak about six weeks ago. For the week ended December 1, 1900, 2 deaths were reported from influenza and 75 from pneumonia and bronchitis; during the week ended January 19, 8 from influenza and 90 from pneumonia and bronchitis. It was generally remarked at the beginning of the epidemic that the cases were of an unusually mild type and lasted from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. During the past two weeks the number of pneumonia and bronchial cases has greatly increased. It is safe to say that scarcely a family has escaped the disease and in many cases all the members of a family have been attacked at the same time or in rapid succession.

SOUTH CAROLINA—*Charleston*.—Two deaths from la grippe were reported during December, 1900, and 1 death during January, 1901. There is no method of fixing the number of cases, as they are not reported. La grippe has been generally prevalent, but is not of a very serious type. It is not now as prevalent as it has been.

VIRGINIA—*Alexandria*.—It is impossible to furnish data of cases or mortality, as the health officer requires no reports and keeps no records. Influenza has, however, prevailed here since early in the fall and now is epidemic. The type of the disease is respiratory and rheumatoid. The treatment is with antipyretics and analgesics.

Richmond.—La grippe prevails to a large extent. The type of the disease appears to be principally of the rheumatic form. There are about 1,500 cases now under treatment. The mortality is practically nil. The treatment consists of salicylates and coal-tar products, repeated every three or four hours till acute symptoms disappear. Stimulants, rest in bed, liquid diet and hot baths are recommended. The average duration is about four days.

WISCONSIN—*Milwaukee*.—Influenza began to be noticed in this city the latter part of October, 1900, and has continued to increase steadily from that time until the present. An approximate estimate of the number of cases can not be given, as the reporting of cases to the local board is not

required. Up to the present date 22 deaths have been reported as due directly or indirectly to influenza, and of this number 19 have been reported during the past two weeks. In at least 4 out of 5 cases the complications noted are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, while in a small percentage the disease is accompanied or followed by a severe catarrhal hepatitis with marked jaundice. In one case coming under the writer's personal care the condition of jaundice was followed by complete exfoliation of the skin of the entire body. No special sanitary measures have been attempted by the local health department. The treatment consists of the use of coal-tar products.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

A death from beriberi at the Boston Marine Hospital.

BOSTON (CHELSEA), MASS., *January 26, 1901.*

SIR: I have to report the admission to this hospital, January 23, 1901, of Seaman Alexander Young, suffering from a well-marked case of beriberi from the bark *Freeman*, just arrived from Singapore. The patient died January 25, 1901, and a necropsy was secured, the result of which will be reported later.

Respectfully,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Diphtheria at the Boston Navy-Yard.

BOSTON (CHELSEA), MASS., *February 1, 1901.*

SIR: I beg to inform you that there is a small epidemic of diphtheria at the Boston Navy-Yard, principally among the marines at the marine barracks.

There are between 25 and 30 cases of the disease in the pesthouse attached to the naval hospital.

It is of interest to note that the isolation ward of the naval hospital was built 15 years ago, and after remaining unused all these years is now filled with cases of diphtheria.

Respectfully,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in North Dakota.

BISMARCK, N. DAK., *January 30, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to report 10 cases of smallpox in Morton County, N. Dak. Five of the cases are in the city of Mandan and 5 in the country.

Dr. G. A. Stark, superintendent, Morton County board of health, informs me that the cases are all quarantined and I understand they are of a mild type.

Respectfully,

F. R. SMYTH,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.